

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 /075 W
----- 051858

P 291543Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2796

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

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DIA WASHDC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP PINS GR US

SUBJECT: CYPRIOT REACTION TO WELCH ASSASSINATION

REF ATHENS 10171 (DTG 241645Z DEC 75)

1. WELCH ASSASSINATION HAS BEEN MAJOR STORY IN GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS SINCE DECEMBER 24. MOST PAPERS IDENTIFIED WELCH AS ATHENS' STATION CHIEF. INITIAL REPORTING WAS GENERALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD, BUT WEEKEND PRESS HAS BEEN MORE SPECULATIVE, SUGGESTING CIA ROLE IN MURDER.

2. IN DECEMBER 28 PRESS, ATHENS APOYEVMATINI QUOTED AS CARRYING A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON THAT WELCH WAS PROBABLY MURDERED BY CIA AS BEING A "DOUBLE-AGENT." ATHENS ELEFTHEROTYPAI QUOTED AS SAYING THAT CIA SACRIFICED WELCH IN AN EFFORT TO STOP CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS ABOUT ITS ACTIVITIES. LOCAL COMMUNIST HARAVGHI HEADLINED THAT "THE MURDERERS OF WELCH ARE AMERICANS" AND QUOTES ATHENS
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KATHIMERINI STORY CONNECTING ASSASSINATIONS WITH RECENT

APPEARANCE IN ATHENS OF ALLEGED FORMER CIA CHIEF IN
GREECE JAMES POTTS.

3. PRO-MAKARIOS ANAGENISIS EDITORIALIZED DEC 28 THAT
"THE GREEKS HAVE BITTER EXPERIENCES OF AMERICAN POLICY,
PARTICULARLY OF THE GUILTY CIA, TOWARDS GREECE, BUT THEY
ARE NOT THE ASSAILANTS." COMMUNIST HARAVGHI IN DEC 28
EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT "WASHINGTON HAS OFFICIALLY
ADMITTED THAT THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT WAS THE CHIEF OF CIA
IN GREECE." POLITICAL MURDERS ARE A COMMON
PRACTICE OF POLITICAL IMPERIALISM, PAPER CONTINUES AND
CIA OFTEN GETS RID OF ITS OWN PEOPLE...IN ORDER TO
"AVOID FURTHER UNFAVORABLE REPERCUSSIONS TO THE CRIMINAL
ORGANIZATION...." PAPER CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT
"IRRESPECTIVE OF THE MOTIVES...OUR FIRM OPINION IS THAT
ANY ATTITUDE OF PERSONAL TERRORISM AND POLITICAL MURDERS
ARE CONDEMNED."

4. DECEMBER 29 PRESS CARRIES ATHENS REPORTS THAT A
SECRET ORGANIZATION NAMED "17 NOVEMBER" HAS CLAIMED RE-
SPONSIBILITY FOR WELCH MURDER. WEEKLY ALITHIA, IN
DEC 29 EDITORIAL, VICIOUSLY CONCLUDES THAT "AN APPRO-
PRIATE STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION (OF A CIA AGENT'S
ASSASSINATION) WOULD BE THE TURKISH SAYING 'LET THERE
BE ONE DOG LESS.' WE HAVE SUFFERED SO MUCH ON
ACCOUNT OF THE CIA."

5. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS TREATMENT GENERALLY FACTUAL,
THOUGH LACED WITH THEME THAT ONE COULD HARDLY EXPECT
MUCH ELSE FROM GREEKS AND THAT, AS IN THE CASE OF
AMBASSADOR DAVIES' MURDER, ASSASSINS WILL MOST LIKELY
NOT REPEAT NOT BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE AND IN TIME WOULD
EVEN BE HONORED.

6. EMBASSY HAS TO DATE RECEIVED OFFICIAL CONDOLENCES
ON WELCH'S DEATH FROM THE GOC (FOREIGN MINISTER
CHRISTOPHIDES AND FONMIN DIRGEN PELAGHIAS), GREEK
EMBASSY (CHARGE ZACHARAKIS AND FIRST SECRETARY
APOSTOLIDES), AND "TFSC PRESIDENT" DENKTASH, AS WELL AS
EXPRESSIONS OF PERSONAL REGRET FROM NUMEROUS PRIVATE
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CITIZENS.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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06 JUL 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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